

In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 21 (canceled).

1     **22.** (new) A combination comprising an aircraft and a guard hose  
2         arrangement connected to said aircraft for protecting  
3         insulated electrical conductors installed in said aircraft,  
4         said guard hose arrangement comprising a plurality of guard  
5         hoses made of a flexible synthetic material, each guard  
6         hose having an inner diameter for receiving at least one of  
7         said insulated electrical conductors, each guard hose  
8         comprising an outwardly facing first contour, said guard  
9         hose arrangement further comprising at least one spacer (5)  
10        positioned between two neighboring guard hoses of said  
11        plurality of guard hoses, said at least one spacer having  
12        two second opposite contours, said first and second  
13        contours forming matching junctions (6, 7) directly between  
14        said at least one spacer and said two neighboring guard  
15        hoses thereby spacing said plurality of guard hoses from  
16        one another, wherein each of said second contours contacts  
17        a circumferential portion less than 180° of a respective  
18        first contour to thereby partly encircle said respective  
19        first contour.

1     **23.** (new) The combination of claim 22, comprising a first  
2         number of guard hoses, and a second number of spacers  
3         arranged between and directly connected at said junctions  
4         (6, 7) to two neighboring guard hoses, and wherein each of

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5        said spacers is positioned along a straight length of two  
6        neighboring guard hoses.

1        24. (new) The combination of claim 22, wherein said at least  
2        one spacer has first and second surfaces opposite each  
3        other, said first and second surfaces forming a first pair  
4        of surfaces, said at least one spacer further comprising  
5        third and fourth surfaces also opposite each other and  
6        forming a second pair of surfaces, each surface of at least  
7        one pair of said first and second pairs of surfaces having  
8        one of said two second opposite contours matching a  
9        circumferential portion of said first contour of a  
10        respective guard hose.

1        25. (new) The combination of claim 24, wherein said first  
2        contour is convex and wherein said two second opposite  
3        contours are concave.

1        26. (new) The combination of claim 24, wherein said first and  
2        second surfaces are squares or rectangles and wherein said  
3        third and fourth surfaces are rectangles.

1        27. (new) The combination of claim 24, wherein said first and  
2        second surfaces forming said first pair are larger than  
3        said third and fourth surfaces forming said second pair and  
4        wherein said second opposite contours are provided at least  
5        on said first and second surfaces.

- 1     **28.**   (new) The combination of claim 22, wherein said matching  
2           junctions (6,7) formed directly between said at least one  
3           spacer (5) and said two neighboring guard hoses, comprise  
4           any one of an adhesive bonding, a welding bond, a tongue  
5           and groove connection and a one piece unitary junction.
- 1     **29.**   (new) The combination of claim 22, wherein said spacer  
2           has a V-sectional or U-sectional configuration.
- 1     **30.**   (new) The combination of claim 29, wherein said V-sectional  
2           or U-sectional configuration has legs of equal length.
- 1     **31.**   (new) The combination of claim 29, wherein said V-sectional  
2           or U-sectional configuration has legs of unequal length.
- 1     **32.**   (new) The combination of claim 22, wherein said spacer has  
2           a V-sectional configuration with two legs enclosing an  
3           angle ( $\alpha$ ) between said two legs.
- 1     **33.**   (new) The combination of claim 32, wherein said angle ( $\alpha$ )  
2           is within the range of 45° to 90°.
- 1     **34.**   (new) The combination of claim 22, wherein said spacer has  
2           a U-sectional configuration with two legs interconnected by  
3           a connector section (L), each leg enclosing with said  
4           connector section (L) an angle ( $\beta$ ).

1 35. (new) The combination of claim 34, wherein said angle ( $\beta$ )  
2 is up to 150°.

1 36. (new) The combination of claim 22, wherein said at least  
2 one spacer has at least one through-hole.

1 37. (new) The combination of claim 22, wherein a first and last  
2 guard hose of said plurality of guard hoses has an  
3 outwardly positioned surface portion facing away from said  
4 at least one spacer, said guard hose arrangement further  
5 comprising a protective covering on said surface portion  
6 facing away from said at least one spacer.

1 38. (new) The combination of claim 37, wherein said protective  
2 covering is a metal foil or fabric adhesively bonded to  
3 said surface portion facing away from said at least one  
4 spacer.

1 39. (new) The combination of claim 37, wherein said covering is  
2 a coating comprising metal particles forming a screen  
3 against electromagnetic adverse influences.

1 40. (new) The combination of claim 22, wherein at least one  
2 guard hose of said plurality of guard hoses comprises at  
3 least one protective ridge (11) extending externally and  
4 along said at least one guard hose.

1 41. (new) The combination of claim 22, comprising several  
2 spacers arranged in a row between two neighboring guard  
3 hoses of said plurality of guard hoses, and spaces (S)  
4 between neighboring spacers in said row.

**[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]**

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